

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-02 PM-04 OMB-01 SS-15 FRB-03 TRSE-00

AID-05 NSC-05 /086 W

----- 043108

P R 071001Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1923

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PGOV, NI, US

SUBJECT: FMG COMMISSIONERS DEFENSE AND LABOR TO VISIT UK AND

US TO STUDY AND DISCUSS "THINK TANKS" AND USG

POLICY PLANNING UNITS

SUMMARY: FMG IS SENDING COMMISSIONERS DEFENSE (BISALLA) AND LABOR (ADEFOPE) TO UK AND U.S. LATER THIS MONTH TO DISCUSS AND STUDY OPERATIONS OF POLICY AND RESEARCH "THINK TANKS." EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENT BE RESPONSIVE FMG'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN MAKING VISIT USEFUL. END SUMMARY.

1. IN DIPLOMATIC NOTE DATED AND RECEIVED NOVEMBER 5, FMG INFORMED EMBASSY THAT COMMISSIONER DEFENSE, BRIGADIER I.D. BISALLA, AND COMMISSIONER FOR LABOR, BRIGADIER H.E.O. ADEFOPE, WILL BE VISITING THE UNITED STATES NOVEMBER 15-22. ACCORDING NOTE PURPOSE OF VISIT IS TO "...STUDY AND DISCUSS THE OPERATION OF POLICY AND RESEARCH UNITS OR SIMILAR BODIES IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. IN THIS CONNECTION THE NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES ARE GIVING CONSIDERATION TO ESTABLISHING A RESEARCH AND

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POLICY UNIT, CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXAMINING

ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES." NOTE CONCLUDES WITH REQUEST FOR USG "EXTEND SUCH NECESSARY FACILITIES AS MIGHT ENABLE THE DELEGATION TO ACCOMPLISH ITS MISSION." TWO COMMISSIONERS ARE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN UNDERSECRETARY, MR. M.P.U. OBARO, WHO IDENTIFIED BY MEA ONLY AS AN UNDERSECRETARY FROM THE "ADMINISTRATIVE POOL." DELEGATION LEAVING FOR UK TOMORROW ON SAME MISSION; MEMBERS TO TRAVEL DIRECTLY TO U.S. FROM UK.

2. BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON BISALLA AND ADEFOPE CONTAINED IN LAGOS A-142, SEPTEMBER 21, 1975. DEGREE OF INFLUENCE THE TWO MEN WIELD IN FMG POWER STRUCTURE UNKNOWN. ADEFOPE AT LEAST HAS STAYING POWER, AS HE ONE OF THREE COMMISSIONERS (ALL MILITARY) HELD-OVER FROM GOWON ADMINISTRATION. HOWEVER, HE NOT GENERALLY REGARDED AS A POWER IN NIGERIAN RULING HIERARCHY. BISALLA, ON OTHER HAND, CERTAINLY IS IN POSITION, AS COMMISSIONER DEFENSE AND MEMBER RULING SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL, EXERCISE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE ON FMG DECISION MAKING PROCESS. HE HAS MADE EXCELLENT IMPRESSION ON THOSE OF US WHO KNOW HIM, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR, DATT AND GEORGE TRAIL.

3. IN TALKS WITH MEA OFFICIAL, HAVE ASCERTAINED "POLICY AND RESEARCH UNITS" EQUATES TO "THINK TANKS." MEA OFFICIAL MADE CLEAR INTEREST IS PRIMARILY IN GOVERNMENT-OPERATED ORGANIZATIONS RATHER THAN PRIVATE. OFFICIAL DID, HOWEVER, ALLOW AS HOW A VISIT TO A PRIVATE FIRM ON CONTRACT TO DO RESEARCH FOR USG COULD BE APPROPRIATE. BRITISH HICOM CONFIRMS FMG CONSIDERING ESTABLISHMENT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT "THINK TANK" AND THAT FMG HAS LEFT DECISION WHO DELEGATION SHOULD SEE IN UK UP TO HMG.

4. WE RECOMMEND WE BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE IN ASSISTING FMG TEAM. WHILE IT LIKELY THAT THIS REQUEST IS SPUR OF THE MOMENT IDEA ON PART OF NEW SMC LEADERSHIP, PERHAPS NOT UNCONNECTED WITH THE ADVERSE FOREIGN REACTION TO FMG'S MOVES TO STOP DEMURRAGE PAYMENTS AND RENEGOTIATE CEMENT PURCHASE CONTRACTS IN EFFORTS DECONGEST PORT, EXPOSURE TO OUR EXTENSIVE PLANNING AND RESEARCH METHODS MIGHT BE BENEFICIAL. WE RECOGNIZE THAT NIGERIAN INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OR RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF MEA POSSIBLE NUCLEUS FOR FMG "THINK TANK" CONCEPT, BUT WOULD PREFER NIGERIANS COME TO THAT CONSLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SION AS RESULT OF VISIT RATHER THAN HAVING US POINT IT OUT TO THEM BEFOREHAND.

5. SUGGESTIONS FOR VISIT WOULD, OF COURSE, INCLUDE POLICY PLANNING (S/P) IN STATE. IF WE ARE LOOKING FOR A MILITARY EXPOSURE, JOINT CHIEFS OPERATIONS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL. NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND/OR OFFICE MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET OPERATIONS MIGHT ALSO BE USEFUL SHOWN TO THESE HIGH-LEVEL

VISITORS. RESEARCH DEPARTMENTS OF IMF, IBRD, US FEDERAL RESERVE, OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES INVOLVED RESEARCH OF CURRENT ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES ALSO WOULD BE USEFUL. OF COURSE, RAND CORPORATION, BROOKINGS, HUDSON AND OTHER RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS WOULD BE VERY APPROPRIATE AND WE SUGGEST THAT DESPITE MISGIVING ON PART FMG DEPARTMENT ATTEMPT EXPOSE BISALLA/ADEFOPE TEAM TO THEM. AT SAME TIME, WE MUST ACCEPT FACT THAT NIGERIAN ABILITY SUPPORT A RAND CORPORATION PROBABLY DOES NOT CURRENTLY EXIST. HOWEVER, UNIVERSITIES DO EXIST IN NIGERIA AND EXPOSURE TO AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES DOING RESEARCH FOR USG (IN APPROPRIATE FIELDS THAT DO NOT DEAL WITH WEAPONS RESEARCH, FOR INSTANCE) MIGHT BE PARTICULARLY RELEVANT. FACT THERE IS SOME SUSPICION OF INTELLECTUALS AND BIAS AGAINST UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHMENT ON PART OF THIS REGIME SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN CHOOSING INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS TO BE VISITED.

6. MEA SAYS NIGERIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WILL CONFIRM ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES. IF WE DO NOT RPT NOT RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRARY, WE PLAN ADVISE MEA BY NOTE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, THAT USG WELCOMES VISIT AND WILL WORK WITH NIGERIAN EMBASSY IN ARRANGING USEFUL PROGRAM FOR THE VISITORS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, POLICIES, CONSULTANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAGOS10997
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750387-0667
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751164/aaaacfhb.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FMG COMMISSIONERS DEFENSE AND LABOR TO VISIT UK AND US TO STUDY AND DISCUSS "THINK TANKS" AND USG
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PGOV, NI, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006